Society & Social Justice · GS - I

Evaluate the role of survivor-centred support systems in improving access to justice for women facing violence in India.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/11/2026	GS - I	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Survivor-centred approach, legal aid, One Stop Centres, Women Helpline, trauma-informed support, rehabilitation, institutional coordination

Model Answer

From reporting to recovery

Violence against women often remains underreported because of stigma, fear of retaliation, economic dependence and limited awareness of legal remedies. Effective intervention must therefore extend beyond registering complaints to ensuring safety, justice and rehabilitation.

Essential components of survivor-centred support

1. **Accessible reporting:** Helplines, police assistance and community outreach can reduce barriers to reporting and encourage early intervention.
2. **Integrated services:** One Stop Centres provide medical assistance, legal support, police facilitation, counselling and temporary shelter through a coordinated mechanism.
3. **Legal empowerment:** Free legal aid under Article 39A and the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 helps survivors navigate judicial procedures.
4. **Psychological recovery:** Trauma-informed counselling and sustained psychosocial support can address emotional distress and facilitate reintegration.

5. **Economic rehabilitation:** Skill development, livelihood assistance and shelter support reduce dependence on abusive households or perpetrators.

Implementation concerns

Limited awareness, uneven geographical coverage, shortage of trained personnel, inadequate infrastructure and weak coordination between police, healthcare institutions and legal services can undermine these mechanisms. Survivors may also face secondary victimisation through insensitive questioning and repeated disclosure of traumatic experiences.

Institutional priorities

Support systems should ensure confidentiality, informed consent, trained frontline personnel, time-bound referrals and regular monitoring of service quality. Local women's organisations and community institutions can strengthen outreach.

Conclusion

The effectiveness of women's safety initiatives must be measured not merely by the number of complaints received but by survivors' ability to obtain protection, justice, dignity and long-term rehabilitation.

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